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35862 U.S. PTO

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY DOCKET NO.: 5051-408CX2DV

DATE: July 20, 2000

# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM (37 CFR 1.53(b))

35862 U.S. PTO

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07/20/00

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR 1.53(b) is:

- ☐ a patent application  
☐ a Continuation ☒ a Divisional ☐ a Continuation-in-Part (CIP)  
 of prior application no.: ; filed .  
☒ A Small Entity Statement(s) was filed in the prior application; Status still proper and desired.

Inventor(s) or Application Identifier:

Ruben G. Carbonell  
 Joseph M. DeSimone  
 Florence E. Henon

Entitled: METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PROTECTING CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Enclosed are:


1. ☒ Application Transmittal Letter and Fee Transmittal Form (*A duplicate is enclosed for fee processing*)
2. ☒ 15 pages of Specification (including 32 claims) **Filed in parent application.**
3. ☒ 3 sheets of Informal Drawings (35 USC 113) **Filed in parent application.**
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
  - a. ☐ newly executed (*original or copy*)
  - b. ☒ copy from prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d) (*for continuation/divisional*) [**Note Box 5 Below**])
  - c. ☒ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)** (*Signed statement deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application*)
5. ☒ Incorporation By Reference (*useable if box 4b is checked*)  
 The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (*Appendix*)
7. ☒ Assignment papers **Filed in parent application.**
8. ☒ Small Entity Statement **Filed in parent application.**
9. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449
10. ☒ Preliminary Amendment (*Please enter all claim amendments prior to calculating the filing fee.*)
11. ☐ English Translation Document
12. ☐ Certified Copy of

13. ☐ Sequence Listing/ Sequence Listing Diskette  
 a. ☐ computer readable copy  
 b. ☐ paper copy  
 c. ☐ statement in support  
 14. ☐ An Associate Power of Attorney  
 15. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)  
 16. ☒ Other: Submittal Formal Drawings (3 Sheets)  
 The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	Column 1 No. Filed	Column 2 No. Extra	Small Entity Rate Fee	Large Entity Rate Fee
BASIC FEE			\$345.00	\$690.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	18 - 20 =	0	x 09 = \$	x 18 = \$0
INDEP CLAIMS	2 - 3 =	0	x 39 = \$	x 78 = \$0
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE Dependent Claims Presented			+ 130 = \$	+ 260 = \$
If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero, Enter "0" in Col. 2			Total \$	Total \$690.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$690.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
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- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0220.
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

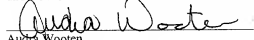
  
 J. Michael Strickland  
 Registration No. P-47,115

Correspondence Address:  
 USPTO Customer Number: 20792  
 Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
 Post Office Box 37428  
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
 Telephone (919) 854-1400  
 Facsimile (919) 854-1401

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 Audra Wooten  
 Date of Signature: July 20, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Divisional of: Carbonell et al.

Parent Appn. Serial No.: 08/948,733

Parent Appn. Filed: October 10, 1997

For: METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PROTECTING CIVIL  
INFRASTRUCTURE

July 20, 2000

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sirs:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment before examining the present application.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 1-14.

Please amend the claims as follows:

15. (Amended) A composition useful for protecting civil infrastructure, said composition [**comprising a mixture of**] consisting essentially of between about 80 and 99.9 percent carbon dioxide and between about 0.1 and 20 percent of a fluoropolyether, said fluoropolyether having at least one anchoring group covalently joined thereto.

23. (Amended) A method of protecting a civil infrastructure substrate, comprising:

providing a composition [**comprising**] consisting essentially of between about 80 and 99.9 percent carbon dioxide and between about 0.1 and 20 percent of a fluocarbon elastomer; and

applying said mixture to said porous civil infrastructure substrate in an amount [**sufficient to form a protective coating thereon**] to penetrate the pores of the civil infrastructure substrate to become incorporated into the civil infrastructure substrate.

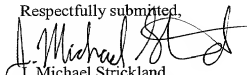
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In re Divisional of: Carbonell et al.  
Parent Appn. Serial No.: 08/948,733  
Parent Appn. Filed: October 10, 1997  
Page 2

### REMARKS

The present divisional application is being filed to claim non-elected composition and method Claims 15-32 from the parent application which has now been allowed. Favorable examination and allowance of the present divisional application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. Michael Strickland  
Registration No. P-47,115

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
PO Box 37428  
Raleigh NC 27627  
Telephone (919) 854-1400  
Facsimile (919) 854-1401

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Audie M. Allen

Date of Signature: July 20, 2000

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## METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PROTECTING CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE

### Field of the Invention

This invention relates to methods and materials that are useful for protecting civil infrastructure, including monumental works of art, from the degrading effects of atmospheric pollutants.

### Background of the Invention

The protection of stone in historic buildings with fluoropolyethers is known. The use of neutral fluoropolyethers for such protection is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,499,146 to Piacenti et al.; the use of fluoropolyethers that have at least on anchoring group bound thereto is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,745,009 to Piacenti et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,746,550 to Strepparola et al., and U.S. Patent No. 4,902,538 to Piacenti et al. Unfortunately, such techniques rely on environmentally deleterious solvents such as chlorofluorocarbons. Because of the extremely large volumes of compositions required to protect such civil infrastructure, the use of compositions that contain environmentally undesirable solvents is a severe problem.

Carbon dioxide has been used as a solvent for some fluoropolymers (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,496,901 to DeSimone). V. Krukoniš and M. McHugh, *Supercritical Fluid Extraction*, 156-158, describe the fractionation of a perfluoroalkylpolyether oil and a chlorotrifluoroethylene oligomer in supercritical carbon dioxide. None of this literature suggests methods of protecting civil infrastructure with such materials.

U.S. Patent No. 5,211,342 to Hoy et al. describes electrostatic liquid coating application processes in which supercritical fluids such as carbon dioxide are used to coat substrates with various polymers. Civil infrastructure substrates are neither suggested nor disclosed, and fluoropolyether polymers are neither suggested nor disclosed. In addition, while electrostatic spraying techniques are useful for circuit boards and other small substrates, they are less desirable for the treatment of civil infrastructure substrates.

U.S. Patent No. 4,923,720 to Lee et al. describes supercritical fluids such as carbon dioxide as diluents for the application of viscous coatings, but does not suggest such coatings for civil infrastructure.

In view of the foregoing, there is a continued need for new techniques for treating civil infrastructure substrates to protect them from the damaging effects of pollution, weather, noxious fumes and the like.

### Summary of the Invention

A first aspect of the present invention is a method of protecting a civil infrastructure substrate from the damaging effects of pollution, noxious fumes, weather, and the like. The method comprises (a) providing a composition comprising carbon dioxide and a fluoropolyether, and then (b) applying that composition to the civil infrastructure substrate in an amount sufficient to form a protective coating thereon.

A second aspect of the present invention is a composition useful for protecting civil infrastructure. The composition comprises a mixture of carbon dioxide and a fluoropolyether, the fluoropolyether having at least one anchoring group covalently joined thereto.

A third aspect of the present invention is a method of protecting a civil infrastructure substrate from the damaging effects of pollution, noxious fumes, weather, and the like. The method comprises (a) providing a composition comprising carbon dioxide and a fluorocarbon elastomer, and then (b) applying that composition to the civil infrastructure substrate in an amount sufficient to form a protective coating thereon.

Advantageously, the compositions of the present invention do not form a surface coating or film on the surface of a civil infrastructure when they are applied thereto. Instead, they penetrate into the pores of the material, so that the coating is incorporated into the material and the material retains a more natural appearance.

The foregoing and other objects and aspects of the present invention are explained in detail in the specification set forth below.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows the cloud points for the fluoropolyether YR at different pressures, temperatures, and concentrations.

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Figure 2A shows the cloud points of various polymers at different pressures and temperatures for a concentration of 0.45% by weight.

Figure 2B shows the cloud points of various polymers at different pressures and temperatures for a concentration of 4.5% by weight.

5      Figure 3 illustrates a spraying apparatus useful for carrying out the present invention.

Figure 4 illustrates the nozzle portion of a spraying apparatus for carrying out the present invention.

#### 10      Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention is useful for protecting any civil infrastructure substrate. Civil infrastructure substrates are, in general, porous substrates, such as stone (*e.g.*, marble, granite, sandstone, limestone), ceramic, cement, brick, and combinations or agglomerations thereof such as concrete. Wood, including both hardwoods (that is, wood from broadleaf species) such as oak and softwoods (that is, wood from conifer species) such as pine, is also considered a civil infrastructure substrate herein. The substrate may be in any form, such as a statue or other monument or work of art, a building, or a building material (*i.e.*, wood, stone, or a prefabricated material prior to structural assembly)

20      Fluoropolyethers are polymeric compounds composed of multiple, sequentially linked, fluorinated aliphatic ether units (*e.g.*, polymers of the formula  $(RO)_nR$  wherein the R groups are the same or different and are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C1-C4 alkyl, typically linear or branched saturated C1-C4 alkyl, with the number of repeats "n" giving the desired molecular weight):

25      perfluoropolyethers refer to such polymers in which essentially all of the hydrogens have been substituted with fluorine. Perfluoropolyethers are preferred. In general, the fluoropolyethers used to carry out the present invention have an average molecular weight of from about 500 or 3,000 grams per mole up to about 10,000 or 20,000 grams per mole.

30      Neutral fluoropolyethers (that is, fluoropolyethers that do not carry anchoring groups) as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,499,146 may be used to carry out the present invention. Preferably, the fluoropolyethers have at least one anchoring group covalently joined thereto, typically at either, or both, of the chain ends thereof. Any suitable anchoring group may be used which enhances the adsorption of the

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fluoropolymer to the substrate. Suitable anchoring groups include, but are not limited to, polar (including dipolar and quadrupolar) groups, groups that have an acid-base interaction with the substrate, groups that hydrogen bond to the substrate, groups that bond ionically or covalently to the substrate, etc. Examples of structures that serve as

5 such groups include, but are not limited to, amides, esters, carboxylic acids, urethanes, ureas, mercaptans, etc. Nitrogen-containing groups are preferred. Numerous fluoropolyethers, particularly perfluoropolyethers, that possess such functional groups are known, such as those described in U.S. Patent No. 4,745,009 to Piacenti et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,746,550 to Strepparola et al., and U.S. Patent No. 4,902,538 to

10 Piacenti et al. (the disclosures of all U.S. Patent References cited herein are incorporated herein by reference).

Fluorocarbon elastomers (see, e.g., 7 Encyclopedia of Polymer Science & Engineering 257) are a group of amorphous fluoroolefin polymers that include, but are not limited to, poly(vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropropylene); poly(vinylidene

15 fluoride-co-hexafluoropropylene-co-tetrafluoroethylene); poly[vinylidene fluoride-co-tetrafluoroethylene-co-perfluoro(methyl vinyl ether)]; poly[tetrafluoroethylene-co-perfluoro(methyl vinyl ether)]; poly(tetrafluoroethylene-co-propylene); and poly(vinylidene fluoride-co-chlorotrifluoroethylene). Such fluorocarbon elastomers may, if desired, have at least one anchoring group as described above covalently

20 joined thereto in accordance with techniques known or apparent to those skilled in the art, with the anchoring group typically at either, or both, of the chain ends thereof.

The term "fluorocarbon" as used herein is intended to encompass both fluoropolyethers and fluorocarbon elastomers.

Carbon dioxide as a carrier or solvent is combined with the fluorocarbon to

25 provide a mixture which is then applied to the substrate. The mixture may be in any form, but is preferably a single-phase mixture, or solution, and is preferably provided as a liquid or supercritical fluid (the term "supercritical solution" also being used herein to refer to supercritical fluid). In general, from about .1 or 1 to 20, 40 or 80 percent (by weight) of the mixture is comprised of the fluorocarbon. The

30 fluorocarbon may be essentially all of one type as described above, or may be a mixture of fluorocarbons as described above (e.g., a mixture of neutral fluoropolyethers and fluorocarbon elastomers that carry an anchoring group).

Compositions used to carry out the present invention may consist essentially of the fluorocarbon and the carbon dioxide, with only minor amounts of cosolvents,

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surfactants or the like included therein, or may include additional ingredients. For example, the composition may contain a fine powder or particles formed from a polymer such as polytetrafluoroethylene (including copolymers thereof), as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,902,538 to Piacenti et al. Such particles are included in the mixture in an amount of from about 2 or 10 to 20 or 30 percent by weight.

The applying step may be carried out by any suitable means, such as spraying or submerging or dipping the substrate in a vat or bath of the mixture. Spraying is particularly preferred. In general, spraying is carried out by passing the composition under pressure through an orifice into the environment of, and directed at, the substrate to which the composition is to be applied. Spraying may be carried out by any suitable means, including atomizing (or nebulizing) the mixture, or, where the mixture is a supercritical solution, by the rapid expansion of [that] supercritical solution (a process known as "RESS"). The amount of fluoropolyether deposited on the substrate will depend on factors such as the particular substrate, its condition, and the environment in which it is used, but will typically be from about 5 or 10 to 300 or 500 grams per square meter.

The present invention is explained in greater detail in the following non-limiting examples, in which "ml" means milliliters, "psi" means pounds per square inch, "sec" means seconds, " $\mu\text{m}$ " means micrometers, "cSt" means centistokes, and temperatures are given in degrees centigrade.

### EXAMPLE 1

#### Solubility Studies

The purpose of this Example was to obtain information on the solubility of perfluoropolyethers in  $\text{CO}_2$  to develop procedures for applying such compositions.

The static phase equilibria measurements were performed using a stainless steel variable volume cell. The cell, of 30 ml total capacity, can be operated at pressures up to 10,000 psi. It is fitted on one side with a sapphire window, 1 inch in diameter and 3/8 inch thick (see Meilchen et al., *Macromolecules* **24**, 4874 (1991)), and on the other side with a manually movable piston. Two holes located on the side of the device allow for the reading of the temperature through a thermocouple (Pt/PrRh) thermocouple) and the reading of the pressure through a transducer (Sensotec transducer, model TJE/743-11). The solvent is compressed with an ISCO

syringe pump (model 260D) through a valve connected to the pressure transducer. This transducer is itself connected to a Sensotec digital monitor which allows the reading of the cell pressure within about  $\pm 1$  psi. The cell is surrounded by heating tape, and the pressure in the cell is imposed by manually moving the inside piston.

5 The density of the mixture at a given pressure and temperature is given by an ISCO computer program.

At constant temperature the pressure is slowly reduced ( $\sim 5$  psi/sec) until separation occurs (fluid  $\rightarrow$  liquid + liquid phase separation). The cloud point is then recorded. The cloud point, defined as the point where the phase separation begins, is

10 observed directly through the sapphire window or followed visually on a monitor connected to optical fibers to light the inside of the cell. It has been noticed that when the pressure is reduced by only 2 psi/sec the cloud points obtained are about 60 psi lower. This behavior may be explained by admitting that at low pressure reduction rates, the polymer precipitation is not accompanied by changes in the optical

15 characteristics of the mixture. For accuracy, each cloud point condition was repeated several times (4 or 5) and the reproducibility obtained was within  $\pm 22$  psi.

Six fluorinated polymers and one elastomer were studied. These polymers are denoted YR, IBAG2200, IBA1, DC2G2200, DC6A0 (DC6G2200) and PAS and the elastomer is abbreviated NH. While the IBA1 was kindly provided

20 by Ausimont S.p.A, and used as such, the other polymers were synthesized and characterized in accordance with known techniques. See F. Piacenti and M. Camaiti, *J. Fluorine Chemistry* 68, 227 (1994). The physical properties and chemical formulas of these polymers are given in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

25 **Table 1. Chemical formula and abbreviation of polymers.**

Abbreviation	Formula	State
YR	$\text{CF}_3\text{-O-Rf-CF}_3$	oil
IBAG2200	$\text{CF}_3\text{-O-Rf-CF}_2\text{-CO-NH-CH}_2\text{-CH-(CH}_3)_2$	oil
IBA1	40% IGAG2200 / 60% YR	oil
DC2G2200	$\text{CF}_3\text{-O-Rf-CF}_2\text{-CO-NH-(CH}_2)_2\text{-NH-CO-CF}_2\text{-Rf-CF}_3$	oil
DC6G2200	$\text{CF}_3\text{-O-Rf-CF}_2\text{-CO-NH-(CH}_2)_6\text{-NH-CO-CF}_2\text{-Rf-CF}_3$	oil
PAS	$\text{-CO-NH-(CH}_2)_6\text{-NH-CO-CF}_2\text{-O-Rf-CF}_2\text{-CO-NH-}$	viscous oil
NH	$\text{-[CH}_2\text{-CF}_2\text{]}_m\text{-[CF}_2\text{-CF(CF}_3\text{)-CH}_2\text{-CF}_2\text{]}_n\text{-}$	rubber
-Rf-	$\text{-[CF}_2\text{-CF(CF}_3\text{)-O]}_m\text{-[CF}_2\text{-O]}_n\text{-}$	

Table 2. Physical properties of the material used.

Abbreviation	d <sup>a</sup> 25°C	Viscosity at 20°C <sup>(a)</sup>	Avg. m.w. found
YR	1.894	1597	6500 <sup>(b)</sup>
IBAG2200	1.822	1008	2280 <sup>(c)</sup>
IBA1	1.839	330	n.a.
DC2G2200	1.880	43362	4485 <sup>(c)</sup>
DC6G2200	1.830	29997	4560 <sup>(c)</sup>
PAS	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
NH	n.a.	n.a.	360000 <sup>(d)</sup>

(a) The viscosity values were obtained with a Cannon Fenske capillary viscometer.

(b) Average m.w. measured by  $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR

(c) Average m.w. measured by vapor pressure osmometry

(d) Average m.w. measured by membrane osmometry in methyl ethyl ketone as solvent.

The solubility measurements of these polymers were performed at different concentrations, temperatures and pressures. The results obtained (Figures 1, 2A, and 2b) indicate that these fluorinated polymers are soluble at up to a 25% weight concentration, and at fairly low temperature and pressure, 60°C and 3000 psi respectively.

The solubility data of the YR polymer at different concentrations are reported in Figure 1. As a general trend, the higher the temperature of the fluid mixture, the higher the solubility pressure. But for a given temperature, the pressure required to dissolve the polymer increases with the weight concentration of that polymer in the solvent. It is to be noted however, that a 50% increase in the concentration results in only a 15% increase in pressure, when the temperature is kept constant.

Figures 2a and 2b give the cloud point measurements for the six polymers studied at concentrations of 0.45 and 4.5 % by weight respectively. The difference in the solubility of these polymers is explained by the difference in molecular weight, number of polar groups and viscosity.

YR, IBAO and IBA1 are three polymers with approximately the same viscosity, and from the graphs, approximately the same solubility in supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>. The slightly lower solubility of YR is probably due to its higher molecular weight. The diamides have a molecular weight which is twice that of IBAO (4800 g/mol vs. 2400 g/mol), and it is normal that their solubility be lower. From a viscosity point of view, it would have been expected that DC2AO, with a viscosity of 43000 cSt, be less soluble than the DC6AO, of viscosity 30000 cSt. However, the longer CH<sub>2</sub> chains found in the DC6AO polymer might also explain the lower solubility of the

hexamethylene diamide versus the ethylene diamide, as these  $\text{CH}_2$  groups are not soluble in  $\text{CO}_2$  (data not shown).

Solubility measurements for the PAS product were performed at different temperatures and concentrations, but the polymer appeared to be soluble only at very low concentration and at relatively high pressures. The only cloud point obtained for this polymer was at  $30^\circ\text{C}$  for a concentration of 0.46% by weight; the pressure required for solubilization was 3800 psi.

Experimental solubility of the elastomer in supercritical carbon dioxide, confirmed that the percentage of hydrogen content increased the cloud point pressure. With a molecular weight of 360,000 and a 1.94% of hydrogen content the NH elastomer is not completely soluble, even at temperature of  $70^\circ\text{C}$  and pressure of 5075 psi.

## EXAMPLE 2

### Spraying by Rapid Expansion of Supercritical Solution

An apparatus that can be used to carry out the present invention is schematically illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The apparatus comprises a 40 centimeter cylinder 10 that is sealed at each end with a teflong ring 11, 11', a sapphire window 12, 12', a brass ring 13, 13', and a screw cap 14, 14'. The apparatus contains stir bars 15, 15', within an internal chamber 16, and can be positioned over a pair of stirring plates (not shown). Heating tape 20 surrounds the cylinder.

External to the cylinder, a syringe pump 30 is connected to the internal chamber 16 by a appropriate fittings 31, 32, valves 33, 34, 35, and tubing 36, 37, 38. A pressure monitor 40 is connected via a transducer 41 to the syringe pump valve 35, again by appropriate adapters 42, 43, 44 and tubing 45. A temperature controller 50 is connected to a thermocouple 51 to control the heating tape. A pressure relief valve 55 is also included. A nozzle 60 is connected to the internal chamber 16 by means of valves 61, 62, fitting 63 and tubing 64, 65.

The nozzle 60 is shown in greater detail in Figure 4. The nozzle comprises a housing 71 into which is threadably inserted a body member 72. A retainer member 73 is used to secure a pin hole member 74. The entire nozzle assembly is constructed so that the pin hole member 74 may be replaced with different pin hole members that have different diameter orifices formed therethrough (e.g., 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , 70  $\mu\text{m}$ , 100

$\mu\text{m}$ , 200  $\mu\text{m}$ ). A fitting 75 secures the nozzle 60 to tubing 65, and a coil heater 76 associated with a temperature controller (not shown) is provided around the housing. A thermocouple, also associated with the temperature controller (not shown) is positioned in the area of the spray through a side port opening 78.

In a preferred embodiment of the foregoing, a metering valve and an additional pressure transducer are incorporated into tubing 64 to provide a better reproducibility of the flow.

It will be appreciated that the foregoing apparatus is adapted to optimizing the process of the present invention, but that the apparatus can be modified, expanded, and/or simplified to adapt it to commercial use in a routine manner.

The RESS (rapid expansion of a supercritical solution, or expansion through an orifice of a solution at high pressure). In the RESS process, a dilute solution of a solute in a supercritical fluid is expanded through an orifice, from a high pressure to a low downstream pressure, causing the solute to be rejected from the solution due to the low solubility of the material at the gas-like solvent density. The process produces a thin film, droplets, powders or fibers of the polymer being sprayed. In general, RESS makes possible (if desired) the production of narrow and controllable particle size distributions and a highly uniform deposition of the coating on the substrates.

In an apparatus as described above, with a constant pressure in the cell  $P_c=4,000$  psi, an initial temperature in the cell  $T_c=40^\circ\text{C}$ , an initial temperature of the nozzle  $T_n=50^\circ\text{C}$ , an initial concentration of polymer YR in the carbon dioxide of about 1% by weight, with an orifice diameter of 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , with the spray directed onto a 5 cm x 5 cm glass slide substrate, and with an initial volumetric flow rate of 60 ml/min and a smallest droplet size  $<0.04\mu\text{m}$ , the results seen in Table 3 below were observed.

Table 3. RESS data.

wt. %	Mass flow rate (g/min)	Volume flow rate (ml/min)
1.0981	0.1164	62.76
1.0875	0.0540	60.36
1.9711	0.0840	68.46
1.0513	0.1014	62.22
1.0376	0.0702	73.08
1.0058	0.1626	79.68

wt. %	Mass flow rate (g/min)	Volume flow rate (ml/min)
0.9827	0.1182	85.38
0.9621	0.1098	88.92
0.9485	0.0648	80.40
0.9367	0.0606	90.48
0.9293	0.0378	92.76
0.9259	0.0174	83.46
0.9189	0.0354	92.04
0.9158	0.0162	90.66
0.9138	0.0102	82.44
0.9099	0.0198	84.60
0.9045	0.0276	96.72
0.9000	0.0228	100.32
0.8977	0.0120	96.00
0.8934	0.0216	90.54

The volumetric flow rate tends to increase with a decrease in the polymer weight percent concentration. The mass flow rate also tends to decrease with a decrease in the polymer weight percent concentration. These data show that fluoropolyethers are soluble in CO<sub>2</sub>, and they can be sprayed directly from the supercritical state using the RESS process. It was also observed that the sprayed polymers can form both droplets and a continuous film.

Wood (including both hardwoods such as oak and softwoods such as pine), ceramic tile, marble, sandstone, and limestone sample substrates are sprayed in the same manner as described above to form a protective fluoropolyether coating thereon.

Wood (including both hardwoods such as oak and softwoods such as pine), ceramic tile, marble, sandstone, and limestone sample substrates are sprayed with a fluorocarbon elastomer in essentially the same manner as described above to form a protective fluorocarbon elastomer coating thereon.

The foregoing is illustrative of the present invention, and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. The invention is defined by the following claims, with equivalents of the claims to be included therein.

**That which is claimed is:**

1. A method of protecting a civil infrastructure substrate, comprising:  
providing a composition comprising carbon dioxide and a fluoropolyether; and  
applying said mixture to said civil infrastructure substrate in an amount  
sufficient to form a protective coating thereon.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said civil infrastructure substrate  
is selected from the group consisting of stone, ceramic, cement, brick, and concrete.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said civil infrastructure substrate  
is wood.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said fluoropolyether is a  
perfluoropolyether.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said fluoropolyether has at least one  
anchoring group covalently bound thereto.
6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said anchoring group is selected  
from the group consisting of amides, esters, carboxylic acids, urethanes, ureas, and  
mercaptans.
7. A method according to claim 5, wherein said anchoring group is an amide,  
ester, or carboxylic acid.
8. A method according to claim 5, wherein said anchoring group is an amide.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said composition is a single phase  
mixture.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said carbon dioxide is a liquid.
11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said carbon dioxide is a  
supercritical fluid.

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12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said applying step is carried out by spraying said composition on said substrate.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said spraying step is carried out by atomizing said composition.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein said carbon dioxide is a supercritical solution and said spraying step is carried out by rapid expansion of said supercritical solution.

15. A composition useful for protecting civil infrastructure, said composition comprising a mixture of carbon dioxide and a fluoropolyether, said fluoropolyether having at least one anchoring group covalently joined thereto.

16. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said fluoropolyether is a perfluoropolyether.

17. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said anchoring group is selected from the group consisting of amides, esters, carboxylic acids, urethanes, ureas, and mercaptans.

18. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said anchoring group is an amide, ester, or carboxylic acid.

19. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said anchoring group is an amide.

20. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said composition is a single phase mixture.

21. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said carbon dioxide is a liquid.

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22. A composition according to claim 15, wherein said carbon dioxide is a supercritical fluid.

23. A method of protecting a civil infrastructure substrate, comprising:  
providing a composition comprising carbon dioxide and a fluocarbon elastomer; and

5 applying said mixture to said civil infrastructure substrate in an amount  
sufficient to form a protective coating thereon.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein said civil infrastructure substrate is selected from the group consisting of stone, ceramic, cement, brick, and concrete.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein said civil infrastructure substrate is wood.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon elastomer is an amorphous fluoroolefin polymer.

27. A method according to claim 23, wherein said composition is a single phase mixture.

28. A method according to claim 23, wherein said carbon dioxide is a liquid.

29. A method according to claim 23, wherein said carbon dioxide is a supercritical fluid.

30. A method according to claim 23, wherein said applying step is carried out by spraying said composition on said substrate.

31. A method according to claim 30, wherein said spraying step is carried out by atomizing said composition.

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32. A method according to claim 30, wherein said carbon dioxide is a supercritical solution and said spraying step is carried out by rapid expansion of said supercritical solution.

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## METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PROTECTING CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE

### Abstract

A method of protecting a civil infrastructure substrate from the damaging effects of pollution, noxious fumes, weather, and the like. The method comprises (a) providing a composition comprising carbon dioxide and a fluorocarbon such as a  
5 fluoropolyether (preferably a perfluoropolyether) or a fluorocarbon elastomer, optionally having at least one anchoring group such as an amide covalently joined thereto, and then (b) applying that composition to the civil infrastructure substrate to form a protective coating thereon. The applying step is preferably carried out by spraying. Compositions useful for carrying out the process of the invention are also  
10 disclosed.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Divisional of: Carbonell et al.

Parent Appn. Serial No.: 08/948,733

Parent Appn. Filed: October 10, 1997

For: METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PROTECTING CIVIL  
INFRASTRUCTURE

July 20, 2000

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

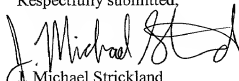
Washington, DC 20231

SUBMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

Sir:

Enclosed herewith is one set (3 sheets) of new formal drawings. It is requested that these new drawings be substituted for the originally filed informal drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. Michael Strickland  
Registration No. P-47,115

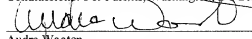
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
Post Office Box 37428  
Raleigh, NC 27627  
Telephone (919) 854-1400  
Facsimile (919) 854-1401

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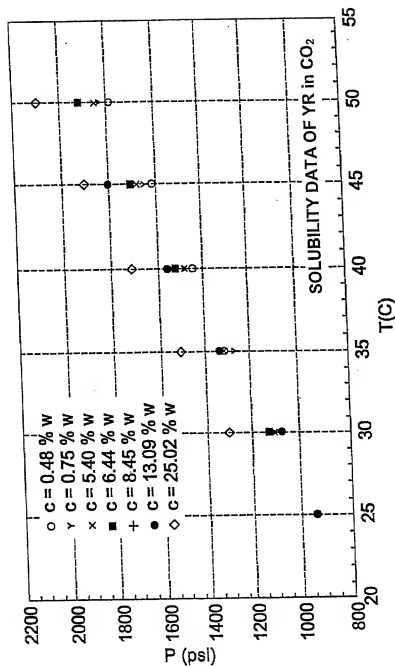
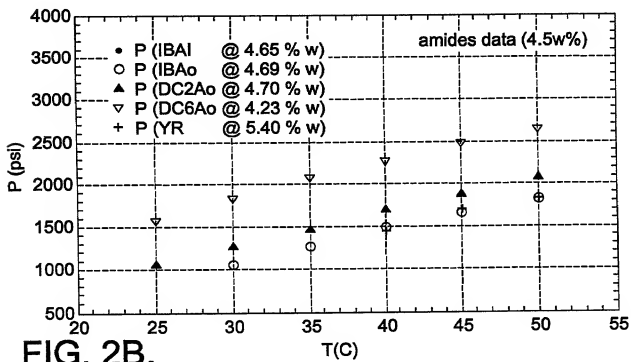
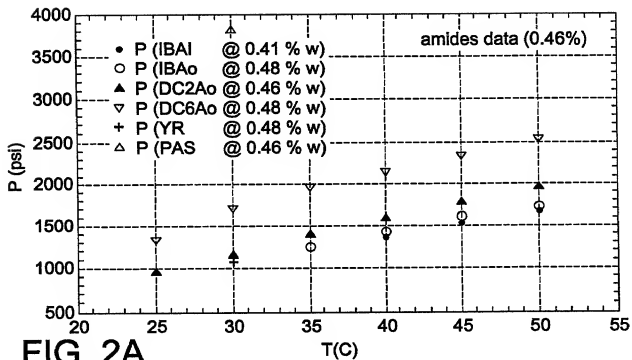


FIG. 1.



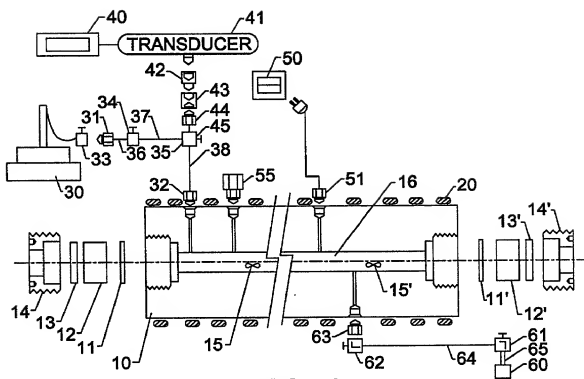


FIG. 3.

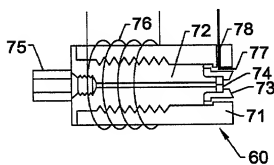


FIG. 4.

# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No. 5051-418

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled *METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PROTECTING CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE*,

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☒ was filed on October 10, 1997 as United States Application No. 08/948,733.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

None			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number	Country	MM/DD/YYYY Filed	Priority Claimed

			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number	Country	MM/DD/YYYY Filed	Priority Claimed

			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number	Country	MM/DD/YYYY Filed	Priority Claimed



I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

None	
Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)).

None		
Appln. Serial No.	Filing Date	Status Patented/Pending/Abandoned

Appln. Serial No.	Filing Date	Status Patented/Pending/Abandoned

Appln. Serial No.	Filing Date	Status Patented/Pending/Abandoned

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.


**Customer Number 20792**

Send correspondence to: Kenneth D. Sibley  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
Post Office Box 37428  
Raleigh, NC 27627

Direct telephone calls to: Kenneth D. Sibley  
(919)854-1400

Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

Full name of (first/sole) inventor: Ruben G. Carbonell

Inventor's Signature:  Date: 4/1/98

Residence: Raleigh, North Carolina

Citizenship: United States of America

Post Office Address: 6105 Godfrey Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27612

Full name of second inventor: Joseph M. DeSimone

Inventor's

Signature: 

Date: 4/2/90

Residence:

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Citizenship:

United States of America

Post Office Address:

~~2902 Pathway Drive~~ 7315 Crescent Ridge Dr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-7710 JMD.

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Full name of third inventor: Florence E. Henon

Inventor's

Signature: 

Date: 9 April 1998

Residence:

Raleigh, NC

Citizenship:

France

Post Office Address:

2306D Stafford St. Ave  
Raleigh, NC 27607

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